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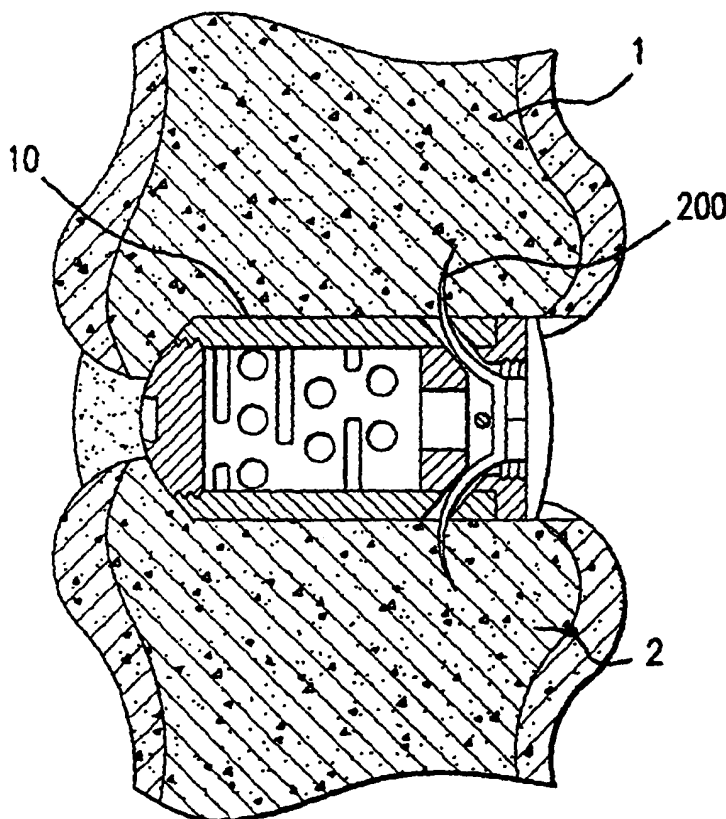
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- (71) Applicant and (72) Inventor: **BRAMLET, Dale, G.** [US/US]; 2044 Brightwaters Boulevard, N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33704-3010 (US). (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH. GM. KE. LS. MW. MZ. SD. SL. SZ. TZ. UG. ZW), Eurasian patent (AM. AZ. BY. KG. KZ. MD. RU. TJ. TM), European

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(54) Title: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FUSING OPPOSING SPINAL VERTEBRAE**



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for fusing opposing spinal vertebrae is disclosed. In an embodiment for a spinal implant of the present invention, the implant includes a body assembly (100) and a retention member (200) coupled to the body assembly. The retention member includes a tang (220) where the tang is extendible from the body assembly. In a method of the present invention, the method includes the step of inserting an implant between adjacent vertebrae with a retention member of the implant in a first retracted configuration. The method also includes the step of configuring the retention member in a second extended configuration wherein the retention member is in its second extended configuration, a portion of a tang of the retention member extends from the implant and into one of the adjacent vertebrae.

WO 02/13732 A3



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 951 879 A (MEDINORM AG) 27 October 1999 (1999-10-27) claims 1,11; figures 7,8 ----	1-17
A	EP 0 637 439 A (KARLIN TECHNOLOGY INC) 8 February 1995 (1995-02-08) column 12, line 43 -column 13, line 15 ----	1-17
A	EP 0 697 200 A (SCHAEFER MICOMED GMBH) 21 February 1996 (1996-02-21) abstract -----	1-17



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

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